

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant :	Udo Klein et al	Art Unit :	2174
Serial No. :	10/675,208	Examiner :	Chris A. Watt
Filed :	September 30, 2003	Conf. No. :	9931
Title :	VARIABLE SIZE INPUT AREAS IN USER INTERFACES		

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents

Commissioner for Patents
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REPLY BRIEF

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.41, Applicant responds to the Examiner's Answer as follows.

Initially, Applicants note that the "Grounds of Rejection" section of the Answer (pages 2-12) appears to essentially restate the contents of the final office action. As such, Applicants refer to the Appeal Brief filed January 2, 2008, and to the Amended Appeal Brief filed February 22, 2008, where Applicants responded to the Examiner's rejections.

The Examiner's "Response to Argument" (pages 12-14) asserts that Applicants' Appeal Brief merely argued two issues. In reality, Applicants pointed to multiple deficiencies in the Examiner's reasoning and request that these be evaluated on appeal. Moreover, Applicants are not conceding that the Examiner's statement in item "A" of that section is an accurate characterization of the present subject matter. Rather, the whole scope of the invention as set forth in the claims must be taken into account.

First, the Examiner's admission regarding the Inaki reference illustrates why the rejection in the final office action lacks merit. Claim 1, it has been emphasized, requires "adjusting the size of the user input area based on ... the specified number of characters of the data field" and "displaying the adjusted user input area having a new size that visually indicates to the user that the input area will accommodate therein visual representations of a remaining number of characters." In rejecting this claim, then, the Examiner readily acknowledges regarding the main reference Inaki that "Inaki does not disclose visual indication of the change in size or adjusting the size of the user input area based on the size of characters included in the data field and the specified number of characters of the data field." Without addressing that the Examiner's

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expression does not use the exact language of the claim, Applicants must note that the rejection appears to be weak in that the Examiner must concede such major deficiencies at the outset.

Not only does Inaki fail to disclose the visual indication required by the present claims, but Glaser and Wallack also does not disclose or suggest this subject matter. Glaser's data entry field can apparently be resized independently of the maximum number of characters of the data field, and independently of any entry made in the field. Wallack teaches that when the column size is set based on a sample, any record that contains more data in the field than the sample may require scrolling. As such, the visual indication of the present claims is simply not taught.

Another issue that Applicants raise against the rejections is that none of the Inaki, Glaser and Wallack references appear to use proportional fonts. The Answer ignores these arguments from Applicants. The portion of Inaki cited as allegedly showing this feature misses the point, however, because it relates to filling in dummy characters up to the maximum field size (see FIG. 24G). Applicants therefore submit that the Examiner's rejection, which purports to show unpatentability of subject matter restricted to proportional fonts, is deficient in that none of the three different disclosures it relies on apparently operates using proportional fonts.

Likewise, while Applicants strongly believe that even the combined disclosures of the Inaki, Glaser and Wallack references fail to disclose or suggest important claim elements, Applicants also respectfully take issue with the assertion that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine them. Essentially, Applicants submit that the alleged motivation to combine the references is merely hindsight from reviewing the present claims. First, implementing Wallack's automatic resizing into Glaser would completely eradicate the user's freedom to adjust the field size. Second, modifying Glaser by Wallack's automatic resizing would defeat a feature explicitly touted in Inaki, namely that the user can define the size of the input field using the cursor. The Answer ignores these arguments from Applicants. For the above reasons, the Examiner has not met the burden of showing a motivation to combine.

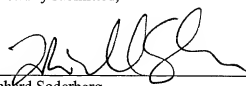
For these reasons, and the reasons stated in the Appeal Brief, Applicant submits that the final rejection should be reversed.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

6/27/08



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